

Department of Employment and Economic Development TRADE READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES (TRA) Petitions 81,000 and above

Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA) provides income support to workers enrolled in full-time training. If you qualify for TRA, the number of weeks potentially available will depend upon the duration and nature of your training. One form of TRA - Basic TRA - may be received without training if you qualify for a training waiver. See training waivers below.

Training Enrollment Deadline for TRA

You must enroll in Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) approved training within 26 weeks after layoff or within 26 weeks after petition certification, or by the Monday of the first week occurring 30 days after the termination of a timely issued waiver, whichever is later.

Basic TRA Benefits

The maximum amount of Basic TRA you may receive is 52 times your TRA weekly amount minus all unemployment compensation benefits you are entitled to receive. Unemployment compensation includes regular state unemployment benefits (UI), and Federal extended benefits. **For example:** If you are entitled to 26 weeks of regular UI, you may receive up to 26 weeks of Basic TRA if you are enrolled in training or have an approved training waiver.

The eligibility period to receive the maximum amount of Basic TRA is typically 104 weeks, beginning the first week after your most recent qualifying layoff.

Additional TRA Benefits

You may qualify to receive additional weeks of TRA in order to complete an approved training program. You may receive up to 65 weeks of Additional TRA.

Completion TRA Benefits

Up to 13 weeks of Additional TRA may also be available if the 13 weeks are necessary for you to complete the training and you have substantially met the performance benchmarks established as part of your training program.

Training Programs and Waivers

If you have not enrolled in or completed TAA-approved training, a waiver signed within the deadline is necessary to receive Basic TRA.

The TRA training requirement may be waived for Basic TRA if it is determined that training is not appropriate; however, if a waiver is issued, it must be issued within 26 weeks after your qualifying layoff or within 26 weeks after petition certification, whichever is later. A waiver may be issued for one of the following reasons:

- **HEALTH**—The worker is unable to participate in training due to the health of the worker, except that a waiver under this subparagraph shall not be construed to exempt a worker from requirements relating to the availability for work, active search for work, or refusal to accept work under Federal or State unemployment compensation laws.
- **ENROLLMENT UNAVAILABLE**—The first available enrollment date for the approved training of the worker is within 60 days after the date of the determination made under this paragraph, or, if later, there are extenuating circumstances for the delay in enrollment.
- **TRAINING NOT AVAILABLE**—Training is not reasonably available to the worker from either governmental agencies or private sources (which may include area vocational education schools, as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 2302), and employers), no training that is suitable for the worker is available at a reasonable cost, or no training finds are available.

Your waiver may be terminated for the following reasons:

- the basis of your waiver is no longer in effect
- your entitlement to Basic TRA exhausts
- or you fail to comply with follow-up as directed

Your waiver may also terminate due to expiration. Once your waiver terminates, you will need to be enrolled in TAA approved training by the Training Enrollment Deadline for TRA in order to be eligible for any remaining Basic, or Additional TRA.

Work Search Requirements for Basic TRA

If you have been issued a waiver from training, or have successfully completed a TAA approved training program and are still receiving Basic TRA, you must make a systematic and sustained effort to obtain work and report your work search activities for each week you request benefits. A sustained effort is a search for work conducted in a systematic manner by contacting several employers each week.

You must be available for any type of work you are able to do which pays the equivalent of your TRA weekly benefit amount.

If you are disqualified from receiving TRA benefits for refusing a job, refusing an appropriate training program, or for not making a systematic and sustained work search; the disqualification continues until you return to work for at least four weeks and earn at least four times your TRA weekly benefit amount.

Part-Time Work

You may earn up to the amount of your weekly TRA benefit without any deduction while you are in full-time TAA approved training and receiving TRA payments. However, if you are receiving UI or Federal extension payments during your TRA eligibility period, your part-time earnings are deductible.

Important: *If you have sufficient earnings from new part-time or temporary employment to establish a second UI benefit account at the end of your benefit year, you may be able to choose between receiving benefits on the new account or returning to the TRA account.*

Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA)

If you become reemployed, you may be eligible to receive Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA). RTAA is a wage subsidy that pays fifty percent of the difference between your wages at separation and your wages in reemployment, to a maximum of \$10,000.

RTAA is available to you during a two year eligibility period if:

- You return to a job that pays less than your trade-impacted job, and;
- Are at least 50 years of age or older (or will be at the time of re-employment), and;
- Your petition number is 80,000 and above, and;
- Your wage is not expected to exceed \$50,000 per year, and;
- You are reemployed full-time, working at least 32 hours per week in one or more jobs.

Note: RTAA is not available if you return to the employment from which you separated, meaning the firm, or the firm subdivision, specified in the Trade Act certification of your worker group.

If your reemployment ends, your RTAA subsidy will end. Your RTAA subsidy may resume, however, if you obtain qualifying reemployment within the established RTAA eligibility period.